

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
HOPKINS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES**

July 24, 2003



**CRIT LUALLEN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
HOPKINS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES

July 24, 2003

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes for Hopkins County Sheriff as of July 24, 2003. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$1,482,448 for the districts for 2002 taxes, retaining commissions of \$40,102 to operate the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$1,436,089 to the districts for 2002 taxes. Taxes of \$999 are due to the districts from the Sheriff and refunds of \$1,345 are due to the Sheriff from the taxing districts.

Report Comment:

- Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor

Robbie Rudolph, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Honorable Patricia M. Hawkins, Hopkins County Judge/Executive

Honorable Frank Latham, Hopkins County Sheriff

Members of the Hopkins County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Hopkins County Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes as of July 24, 2003. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Hopkins County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Hopkins County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of July 24, 2003, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated October 15, 2003, on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
Robbie Rudolph, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Patricia M. Hawkins, Hopkins County Judge/Executive
Honorable Frank Latham, Hopkins County Sheriff
Members of the Hopkins County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
October 15, 2003

HOPKINS COUNTY
FRANK LATHAM, COUNTY SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES

July 24, 2003

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Transferred from Outgoing Sheriff	\$ 178,643	\$ 60,806	\$ 897,470	\$ 239,292
Franchise Corporation Taxes	57,345	17,645	251,384	
Additional Billings	964	30,476	4,951	1,123
Bank Franchises	26,120			
Penalties	10,392	3,518	52,294	14,229
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>\$ 273,464</u>	<u>\$ 112,445</u>	<u>\$ 1,206,099</u>	<u>\$ 254,644</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	\$ 1,715	\$ 522	\$ 7,617	\$ 4,017
Discounts	8	602	40	9
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	29,422	10,539	151,191	34,234
Tangible Personal Property	4,059	1,179	16,351	5,396
Intangible Personal Property				1,533
Uncollected Franchise Corporation Taxes	<u>16,064</u>	<u>5,001</u>	<u>74,705</u>	
Total Credits	<u>\$ 51,268</u>	<u>\$ 17,843</u>	<u>\$ 249,904</u>	<u>\$ 45,189</u>
Taxes Collected	\$ 222,196	\$ 94,602	\$ 956,195	\$ 209,455
Less: Commissions *	<u>9,443</u>	<u>3,966</u>	<u>17,791</u>	<u>8,902</u>
Taxes Due	\$ 212,753	\$ 90,636	\$ 938,404	\$ 200,553
Taxes Paid	211,751	91,313	933,827	199,198
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>970</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>4,293</u>	<u>1,042</u>
Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff)		**	***	
as of Completion of Fieldwork	<u>\$ 32</u>	<u>\$ (975)</u>	<u>\$ 284</u>	<u>\$ 313</u>

*

, **, and *** See Page 4.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

HOPKINS COUNTY
 FRANK LATHAM, COUNTY SHERIFF
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES
 July 24, 2003
 (Continued)

* Commissions:

1.00% on	\$	1,675
4.25% on	\$	524,577
1.87% on	\$	920,144
1.62% on	\$	36,050

** Special Taxing Districts:

Health District	\$	118
Extension District		76
Tradewater Watershed District		7
Earlington Fire District		(1,176)

Refund Due Sheriff	\$	(975)
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*** School Districts

Hopkins County School District	\$	(169)
Dawson Springs School D		453

Due District	\$	284
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HOPKINS COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

July 24, 2003

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of July 24, 2003, the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of either pledged securities held by the Sheriff's agent in the Sheriff's name, or provided surety bond which named the Sheriff as beneficiary/obligee on the bond.

HOPKINS COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 24, 2003
(Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2002. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2003. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was January 23, 2003 through May 23, 2003.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Hopkins County Sheriff earned \$191 as interest income on 2002 taxes. The Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. As of October 15, 2003, the Sheriff was due refunds from the Hopkins County School District and the Dawson Springs School District for over paid interest in the amounts of \$16 and \$7 respectively.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Hopkins County Sheriff collected \$48,320 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. As of October 15, 2003, the Sheriff owed \$233 in 10% add-on fees to his fee account.

Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The Hopkins County Sheriff collected \$4,770 of advertising costs and \$6,005 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). The Sheriff distributed the advertising costs to the county as required by statute, and the advertising fees will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. As of October 15, 2003, the Sheriff owed \$80 in advertising fees to his fee account.

Note 7. Unrefundable Duplicate Payments And Unexplained Receipts Should Be Escrowed

The Sheriff should deposit any unrefundable duplicate payments and unexplained receipts in an interest-bearing account. According to KRS 393.110, the Sheriff should properly report annually to the Treasury Department any unclaimed moneys. After seven years, if the funds have not been claimed, the funds should be submitted to the Kentucky State Treasurer. For the 2002 taxes, the Sheriff had \$5,589 in unexplained receipts. Therefore, the Sheriff should send a written report to the Treasury Department.

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

HOPKINS COUNTY
FRANK LATHAM, COUNTY SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

As of July 24, 2003

Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Due to the entity's diversity of official operations, small size and budget restrictions, the official has limited options for establishing an adequate segregation of duties. The Sheriff has primarily assigned one deputy to perform all of the accounting functions of the office. We recommend that the Sheriff or someone else periodically review this work in order to create compensating controls to offset this internal control weakness. Examples of compensating controls are: 1) comparing source documents to the receipts and disbursements ledgers and then to the monthly reports; 2) having deposits compared to the receipts ledger; and 3) comparing checks to claims before they are mailed.

Sheriff's Response:

The Sheriff's Department has recently hired a bookkeeper with an accounting degree to aid in the tax collections as well as implement collection procedures so as to segregate the duties of this office. When this administration first took office in January 2003, the budget only allowed for two full-time office deputies. With our new budget in place, we were able to hire the third office deputy which will allow us to segregate the duties of this office.

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Honorable Patricia M. Hawkins, Hopkins County Judge/Executive
Honorable Frank Latham, Hopkins County Sheriff
Members of the Hopkins County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the Hopkins County Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes as of July 24, 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated October 15, 2003. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Hopkins County Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes as of July 24, 2003 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Hopkins County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition.

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying comment and recommendation.

- Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
October 15, 2003

